

of paddocks bordered by forest. Here a stream ran through the paddocks and for part of its length had a narrow zone of swamp and low bush growth in which the birds were found, comprising only about two acres in all. Both areas seemed too small to support a viable population of Emu-Wrens for a long period, and both appeared to be relatively recent results of human activity.

Forest clearing seems to have occurred here at intervals over the last century and there would appear to be two alternative possible explanations for the presence of Emu-Wrens in these places. These birds might represent a peripheral population which had moved into the Jarrah area as clearing progressed, and had been fortunate in finding a fortuitous succession of suitable partly cleared areas, enabling the birds to move gradually into these areas where they now occur. Alternatively the species may have the ability to disperse at times through apparently unfavourable areas of forest and to occupy small patches of suitable habitat within such areas. This could occur as a dispersive period after a build-up of population in a favourable habitat, or as a dispersive phase in the non-breeding period of the annual cycle. Much of the forest zone has a low bushy shrub layer, particularly around small watercourses, and this would form a possible route through which the birds could move, assuming that they were prepared to tolerate the presence of a forest foliage canopy as well.

Mr. P. R. Colston has drawn to my attention a factor which must enforce at least a partial dispersal at times. Parts of the forest and any low regrowth are burnt off at intervals in fires which will destroy such small areas of suitable habitat, and it seems more probable that the birds will move away in front of these rather than remain and be destroyed.

Emu-Wrens are highly secretive in their behaviour and we often found that they only revealed their presence by vocal responses to the squeaking sounds that we made. They might easily pass through an area unnoticed. It would be useful if field observers could check for the presence of Emu-Wrens in small isolated pockets of apparently suitable habitat within forest areas, and also watch for any evidence of an ability to move through the forest to reach such places, or to traverse the open paddocks of short grass which would appear to offer an equally unfavourable environment.

—C. J. O. HARRISON, British Museum (Natural History).

An Out-of-Season Record of the White-winged Triller.—On June 1, 1968 while I was ploughing on my farm at Seabrook, near Northam, I noticed a male White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*), in eclipse plumage, fly into a York Gum tree. When I left the tractor to have a closer look at the bird, it flew out onto the ploughed ground and began feeding. I circled around it and had a good look at it before it flew back into the tree where I again watched it for some time.

The bird was brown on the head and nape, light grey on the back, with the tail and wings black except for the prominent white shoulder patch. The under parts were white.

There was a flock of Black-faced Wood-Swallows also in the tree and on the ground, as well as some Pipits and a male Rufous Whistler.

I did not hear the Triller call at any time.

—A. L. MILHINCH, Northam.